

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:

a variable display device ~~for variably displaying symbols~~ in a form of a plurality of reels operative for rotating about a common axis of rotation, each reel having a plurality of symbols extending about an outer periphery of the reel; and

an electric display device disposed in front of the variable display device in a forward direction, ~~and having a light transparent area which shows symbols displayed on the variable display device, from outside of the gaming machine,~~

wherein said electric display device includes:

~~an~~ a flat electric display panel for displaying an image, the electric display having a flat back face,

a light guiding plate disposed apart from yet adjacent to the back face and between the electric display panel and the variable display device, the light guiding plate having an opposing pair of flat surfaces and a plurality of contiguous side faces extending therebetween and peripherally about the pair of flat surfaces, the light guiding plate operative for guiding light entered from at least one side face thereof to a the back face of the electric display panel so as to irradiate the light, the light guiding plate having a plurality of openings corresponding to the plurality of reels for showing forward-most ones of the symbols therethrough, and

an illumination device illuminating the electric display panel from therebehind, the illumination device including a plurality of light emitting diodes aligned continuously along and adjacent to the at least one side face of the light guiding plate.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A gaming machine comprising:

a variable display device ~~for variably displaying symbols~~ in a form of a plurality of reels operative for rotating about a common axis of rotation, each reel having a plurality of symbols extending about an outer periphery of the reel; and

an electric display device disposed in front of the variable display device in a forward direction, ~~and having a light transparent area which shows symbols displayed on the variable display device, from outside of the gaming machine,~~

wherein said electric display device includes:

an a flat electric display panel for displaying an image, the electric display panel having a flat back face,

a flat diffusion sheet disposed apart from yet adjacent to the back face of the electric panel, the diffusion sheet having a plurality of diffusion sheet openings extending through the diffusion sheet and corresponding to the plurality of reels for showing forward-most respective ones of the symbols therethrough, and

an illumination device,

~~wherein the illumination device comprises including a flat plate-shaped board~~ and a plurality of light emitting diodes provided in a plurality of rows and columns to form a matrix on a surface of the plate-shaped board, the plurality of light emitting diodes opposing a the back face of the diffusion sheet, the illumination device having a plurality of illumination device openings extending through the surface of the plate-shaped board and corresponding to the plurality of diffusion sheet openings and the plurality of reels for showing forward-most ones of the symbols therethrough, wherein and

the diffusion sheet being is disposed between the electric display panel and the illumination device and the illumination device is disposed between the diffusion sheet and the variable display device.

4. (Currently Amended) A game machine comprising:

a variable display device ~~for variably displaying symbols~~ in a form of a plurality of reels operative for rotating about a common axis of rotation, each reel having a plurality of symbols extending about an outer periphery of the reel; and

an electric display device disposed in front of the variable display device in a forward direction ~~and having a light transparent area which shows symbols displayed on the variable display device from outside of the gaming machine,~~

wherein said electric display device includes:

an a flat electric display panel for displaying an image, the electric display having a flat back face,

a light guide plate disposed apart from yet adjacent to the back face of the electric display panel and between the electric display panel and the variable display device, the light guiding plate having an opposing pair of flat surfaces and a plurality of contiguous side faces extending therebetween and peripherally about the pair of flat surfaces, the light guiding plate operative for guiding light entered from at least one side face thereof to a the back face of the electric display panel so as to irradiate the light, the light guiding plate having a plurality of light guiding plate openings corresponding to the plurality of reels for showing forward-most ones of the symbols therethrough,

an illumination device illuminating the electric display panel from therebehind, the illumination device including a plurality of light emitting diodes aligned continuously along and adjacent to the at least one side face of the light guide plate, and

a reflection plate disposed between said variable display device and said light guiding plate for reflecting light emitted from said emitting diodes on said light guide plate to said electric display panel, the reflection plate having a plurality of reflection plate openings extending therethrough and corresponding to the plurality of light guiding plate openings and the plurality of reels for showing forward-most ones of the symbols therethrough.

5. (Previously Presented) A gaming machine according to claim 4, further comprising a diffusion sheet, wherein the plurality of light emitting diodes oppose a back face of the diffusion sheet.

6. (Previously Presented) A gaming machine according to claim 4, further comprising a diffusion sheet, wherein the diffusion sheet is disposed between the electric display panel and the illumination device.

7. (Previously Presented) A gaming machine according to claim 4, further comprising a diffusion sheet, wherein the plurality of light emitting diodes oppose a back face of the diffusion sheet and the diffusion sheet is disposed between the electric display panel and the illumination device.

8. (Currently Amended) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the light guiding plate is disposed between the electric display device and the variable display device; the illumination device is disposed between the electric display device and the variable display device; and the illumination device is operable for illuminating the electric display panel from therebehind via ~~the~~ the light guiding plate.

9. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 3, wherein the diffusion sheet is disposed between the electric display device and the variable display device, and the illumination device is disposed between the electric display device and the variable display device.

10. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 4, wherein the light guiding plate is disposed between the electric display device.

11. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the electric display device displays the image in accordance with the progress of a game which is executed in the gaming machine and the light emitting diodes are controlled in accordance with the progress of the game which is executed in the gaming machine.

12. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 3, wherein the electric display device displays the image in accordance with the progress of a game which is executed in the gaming machine and the light emitting diodes are controlled in accordance with the progress of the game which is executed in the gaming machine.

13. (Previously Presented) The gaming machine according to claim 4, wherein the electric display device displays the image in accordance with the progress

of a game which is executed in the gaming machine and the light emitting diodes are controlled in accordance with the progress of the game which is executed in the gaming machine.